

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PE
SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION UPDATE

REF: LIMA 2972

1. THE APRIL 5 GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY THE FEDERATION OF WORKERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AREQUIPA (FDTA) WAS DECLARED "ILLEGAL" APRIL 6 BY THE GOP MINISTRY OF LABOR. (WORKERS WHO FAIL TO RETURN TO WORK FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE SORCKDAYS COULD NOW BE LEGALLY FIRED WITHOUT SEPARATION PAYMENTS). THE STRIKE CONTINUED APRIL 7, REPORTEDLY CLOSING DOWN MOST PLANTS, MANY SMALL BUSINESSES, AND STOPPING OR SEVERELY LIMITING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. NO RPT NO SERIOUS VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. AFTER A UNION MEETING APRIL 6, METALWORKERS IN LA OROYA (ABOUT 140 KILOMETERS EAST AND SLIGHTLY NORTH OF LIMA) REPORTEDLY STATED A DEMONSTRATION IN THAT MOUNTAIN TOWN PROVOKING POLICE

INTERVENTION. TWELVE DEMONSTRATORS WERE WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR COMMUNIQUE WHICH DENOUNCED MINE AND METALWORKER'S LEADER VICTOR CUADROS PAREDES AND LABOR LAWYER RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ AS INSTIGATORS OF THE DISTURBANCE. THE
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COMMUNIQUE REPORTED DAMAGE TO ONE VEHICLES AND OTHER PRIVATE PROPERTY. IT ADDED THAT THE TWO LABOR LEADERS HAD GONE TO AREQUIPA AND TOQUEPALA (WHERE SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION HAS A LARGE MINING COMPLEX) AND WERE CONTINUING TO AGITATE THE WORKERS IN THOSE TWO AREAS. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY NOTICE CRITICIZED THESE LEADERS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM EXILE) FOR PROVOKING PRODUCTION LOSSES AND DISORDER, AND FOR

JEOPARDIZING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THE MINISTRY WARNED THAT IT WOULD TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER AND SOCIAL PEACE.

3. COMMENT: THE AREQUIPA STRIKE DOES NOT RPT NOT SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTED FROM LIMA, BUT INSTEAD AROSE FROM LOCAL DISCONTENT. HOWEVER,UDP CANDIDATES FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, VICTOR CUADROS AND RICARDO DIAZ WIL PROBABLY TRY TO PROFIT POLITICALLY FROM WORKERS' DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NEW LABOR LAW, THE FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF FIRED WORKERS AND THE INCREASING PRESSURS OF INFLATION.
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